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## SOME RESULTS ON THE OSCILLATORY AND ASYMPTOTIC BEHAVIOR OF SOLUTIONS OF NONLINEAR DELAY DIFFERENTIAL INEQUALITIES

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We consider the following nonlinear delay differential inequality

$$(r) \{ (r_{n-1}(t) (\dots (r_2(t) (r_1(t) y'(t))' \dots)' + p(t) f(y(t), y[h(t)])) \operatorname{sgn} y[h(t)] \leq 0,$$

where  $n \geq 2$ .

The following conditions are always assumed:

(i)  $r_i \in C[\langle 0, \infty \rangle, (0, \infty)]$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ ,

(ii)  $h \in C[\langle 0, \infty \rangle, R]$ ,  $h(t) \leq t$  for  $t \geq 0$  and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} h(t) = \infty$ ,

(iii)  $p \in C[\langle 0, \infty \rangle, \langle 0, \infty \rangle]$  and  $p$  is not identically zero in any neighborhood  $O(\infty)$ ,

(iv)  $f \in C[R^2, R]$ ,  $yf(x, y) > 0$  for  $xy > 0$  and nondecreasing in  $x (> 0)$ ,  $y (> 0)$ .

We introduce the notation:

$(D_1)$   $D^0(y) = y$ ,  $D^1(y; r_1) = r_1 y'$ ,  $D^i(y; r_1, \dots, r_i) = r_i (D^{i-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}))'$ ,  
 $i = 2, 3, \dots, n$ , with  $r_n = 1$ .

Moreover, if  $D^i(y; r_1, \dots, r_i)$  is defined as a continuous function on  $\langle T, \infty \rangle$ , then the function  $y$  is said to be  $i$ -times continuously  $r$ -differentiable on  $\langle T, \infty \rangle$ .

Then in view of  $(D_1)$  we can rewrite the inequality  $(r)$  as follows:

$$\{ D^n(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1}, 1)(t) + p(t) f(y(t), y[h(t)]) \} \operatorname{sgn} y[h(t)] \leq 0;$$

$(D_2)$   $\bar{r}_i(t) = \max \{ r_i(s) : t/2 \leq s \leq t \}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ ,  $\tilde{r}_j(t) = \max \{ \bar{r}_j(s) : t/2^{n-j-1} \leq s \leq t \}$ , where  $j \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ ;

$$R_j^i(t) = \tilde{r}_j(t) \tilde{r}_{j-1}(t) \dots \tilde{r}_{i+1}(t), j = i+1, \dots, n-1, R_j^0(t) = R_j(t);$$

$$J_i(t, s, r_i, \dots, r_{n-1}) = \int_s^t \frac{1}{r_i(s/2^{n-i-1})} \int_s^{s_1} \dots \int_s^{s_{i-1}} \frac{1}{r_{n-2}(s_{n-2}/2)} \dots$$

$$\int_s^{s_{n-2}} \frac{ds_{n-1}}{r_{n-1}(s_{n-1})} ds_{n-2} \dots ds_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1,$$

$$I_0 = 1,$$

$$I_k(t, t_0, r_{i_k}, \dots, r_{i_1}) = \int_{t_0}^t \frac{1}{r_{i_k}(s)} I_{k-1}(s, t_0, r_{i_{k-1}}, \dots, r_{i_1}) ds,$$

$$i_k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}, k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\},$$

(D<sub>3</sub>)  $\gamma(t) = \sup \{s \geq 0; h(s) < t\}$  for  $t \geq 0$ .

Denote by  $W$  the set of all solutions  $y(t)$  of (r) which exist on a ray  $\langle t_0, \infty \rangle \subset \subset \langle 0, \infty \rangle$  and satisfy

$$\sup \{ |y(s)| : s \geq t \} > 0$$

for every  $t \geq t_0$ .

A solution  $y(t) \in W$  is called oscillatory if it has arbitrarily large zeros. Otherwise the solution  $y(t) \in W$  is called nonoscillatory.

**Definition 1.** We shall say that the inequality (r) has the property  $A$ , if every solution  $y(t) \in W$  is oscillatory for  $n$  even, while for  $n$  odd is either oscillatory or  $|D^i(y; r_1, \dots, r_i)(t)| \downarrow 0$  as  $t \uparrow \infty$  ( $i = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ ).

**Definition 2.** We shall say that the inequality (r) has the property  $A_0$ , if every solution  $y(t) \in W$  is either oscillatory or  $|D^i(y; r_1, \dots, r_i)(t)| \downarrow 0$  as  $t \uparrow \infty$  ( $i = 0, 1, \dots, n-2$ ).

In this paper we shall prove sufficient conditions for the inequality (r) to have either the property  $A$  or  $A_0$ . The oscillatory properties of solutions of functional differential equations of  $n$ -th order, involving general differential operators of the form (D<sub>1</sub>) are studied for example in [3, 4, 6-9].

To obtain our results, we shall need the following lemmas which are extensions of two lemmas due to Kiguradze [1], [2].

**Lemma 1.** Let  $r_i: \langle T_0, \infty \rangle \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$  be continuous functions and

$$(1) \quad \int \frac{dt}{r_i(t)} = \infty, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, k-1.$$

Let  $u(\neq 0)$  be  $k$ -times continuous  $r$ -differentiable function on  $\langle T_0, \infty \rangle$ . If

$$(2) \quad \delta u(t) D^k(u; r_1, \dots, r_k)(t) \leq 0, \quad (\delta = \pm 1) \quad \text{for } t \geq T_0,$$

and not identically zero in any neighborhood  $O(\infty)$ , then there exists an integer  $l \in \{0, 1, \dots, k\}$ , with  $k+l$  odd (even) if  $\delta = 1$  ( $\delta = -1$ ) and a  $t_0 > T_0$  such that

$$(3) \quad u(t) D^l(u; r_1, \dots, r_l)(t) > 0 \quad \text{on } \langle t_0, \infty \rangle \quad \text{for } i = 0, 1, \dots, l,$$

$$(4) \quad (-1)^{l+i} u(t) D^i(u; r_1, \dots, r_i)(t) > 0 \quad \text{on } \langle t_0, \infty \rangle \quad \text{for } i = l+1, \dots, k-1,$$

This Lemma generalizes the well-known lemma of Kiguradze [1] and can be proved similarly.

**Lemma 2.** Let  $r_i: \langle T_0, \infty \rangle \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n-1$  be continuous functions and

$$(5) \quad \int \frac{dt}{r_i(t)} = \infty, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n-2.$$

Let  $u (\neq 0)$  be an  $n-1$ -times continuously  $r$ -differentiable function on the interval  $\langle T_0, \infty \rangle$ . If for every  $t \geq T_0$ ,

$$(6) \quad u(t) D^{n-1}(u; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t) > 0,$$

$$(7) \quad u(t) D^n(u; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1}, 1)(t) \leq 0$$

and not identically zero on any neighborhood  $O(\infty)$ , then there exist  $t_0 \geq T_0$  and an integer  $l \in \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$ ,  $n+l$  odd, such that (3),

$$(4') \quad (-1)^{l+i} u(t) D^i(u; r_1, \dots, r_i)(t) > 0 \quad \text{on} \quad \langle t_0, \infty \rangle$$

for  $i = l+1, \dots, n-1$ .

hold, and

$$(8) \quad |D^i(u; r_1, \dots, r_i)(t/2^{n-i-1})| \geq$$

$$\geq a_i t^{n-i-1} \frac{|D^{n-1}(u; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t)|}{\bar{r}_{n-1}(t) \bar{r}_{n-2}(t/2) \dots \bar{r}_{i+1}(t/2^{n-i-2})} \quad \text{for } t \geq 2^{n-i-1} t_0,$$

where

$$a_i = \frac{2^{-(n-i-1)^{3/2}}}{(n-i-1)!}, \quad i = l, l+1, \dots, n-1.$$

$$(9) \quad |D^i(u; r_1, \dots, r_i)(t)| \geq \left(\frac{t}{2}\right)^{l-i} \frac{|D^l(u; r_1, \dots, r_l)(t)|}{(l-i)! \bar{r}_{i+1}(t) \dots \bar{r}_l(t)}$$

for  $t \geq 2t_0, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, l-1,$

$$(10) \quad |D^i(u; r_1, \dots, r_i)(t)| \geq A \frac{t^{n-i-1} |D^{n-1}(u; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t)|}{\bar{r}_{n-1}(t) \bar{r}_{n-2}(t/2) \dots \bar{r}_i(t/2^{n-l-1}) \dots \bar{r}_{i+1}(t/2^{n-l-1})}$$

for  $t \geq 2^{n-1} t_0,$  where  $A = \frac{2^{-(n-1)(n^2+1)}}{[(n-1)!]^2}, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, l.$

**Proof.** By Lemma 1 in view of (6), there exist  $t_0 \geq T_0$  and an integer  $l, l \in \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$ , with  $l+n-1$  even such that (3) and (4') hold.

Without loss of generality, we assume that  $u(t) > 0$  for every  $t \geq t_0$ . Next by virtue of (4') and (7) we obtain

$$-D^{n-2}(u; r_1, \dots, r_{n-2})(t/2) \geq \int_{t/2}^t \frac{D^{n-1}(u; r_1, \dots, r_{n-2})(s) ds}{r_{n-1}(s)} \geq$$

$$\geq D^{n-1}(u; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t) J_{n-1}(t, t/2, r_{n-1}), \quad t \geq 2t_0,$$

$$D^{n-3}(u; r_1, \dots, r_{n-3})(t/4) \geq -\int_{t/2}^t \frac{D^{n-2}(u; r_1, \dots, r_{n-2})(s/2) ds}{2r_{n-2}(s/2)} \geq$$

$$\geq \frac{1}{2} D^{n-1}(u; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t) J_{n-2}(t, t/2, r_{n-2}, r_{n-1}), \quad t \geq 4t_0,$$

...

$$\begin{aligned}
& (-1)^{n-i-1} D^i(u; r_1, \dots, r_i)(t/2^{n-i-1}) \geq \\
& \geq \frac{(-1)^{n-i}}{2^{n-i-2}} \int_{t/2}^t \frac{D^{i+1}(u; r_1, \dots, r_{i+1})(s/2^{n-i-2}) ds}{r_{i+1}(s/2^{n-i-2})} \geq \\
& \geq \frac{1}{2^{(n-i-1)^2/2}} D^{n-1}(u; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t) J_{i+1}(t, t/2, r_{i+1}, \dots, r_{n-1}), \\
& t \geq 2^{n-i-1} t_0, i \geq l.
\end{aligned}$$

From the last inequalities we get

$$\begin{aligned}
(11) \quad & (-1)^{n-i-1} D^i(u; r_1, \dots, r_i)(t/2^{n-i-1}) \geq \frac{D^{n-1}(u; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t)}{2^{(n-i-1)^2/2} \bar{r}_{i+1}(t/2^{n-i-2})} \times \\
& \times \int_{t/2}^t \frac{t-s_{i+2}}{r_{i+2}(s_{i+2}/2^{n-i-3})} J_{i+3}(s_{i+2}, t/2, r_{i+3}, \dots, r_{n-1}) ds_{i+2} \geq \dots \geq \\
& \geq \frac{D^{n-1}(u; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t)}{2^{(n-i-1)^2/2} \bar{r}_{i+1}(t/2^{n-i-2}) \dots \bar{r}_{n-1}(t)} \int_{t/2}^t \frac{(t-s)^{n-i-2}}{(n-i-2)!} ds, \\
& \text{for } t \geq 2^{n-i-1} t_0, i = l, \dots, n-1.
\end{aligned}$$

The inequality (8) follows from (11).

Next, in view of (3) and (4') we have

$$\begin{aligned}
D^{l-1}(u; r_1, \dots, r_{l-1})(t) & \geq \int_{t_0}^t \frac{D^l(u; r_1, \dots, r_l)(s)}{r_l(s)} ds \geq \\
& \geq D^l(u; r_1, \dots, r_l)(t) I_1(t, t_0, r_l), \\
D^{l-2}(u; r_1, \dots, r_{l-2})(t) & \geq \int_{t_0}^t \frac{D^{l-1}(u; r_1, \dots, r_{l-1})(s)}{r_{l-1}(s)} ds \geq \\
& \geq D^l(u; r_1, \dots, r_l)(t) I_2(t, t_0, r_{l-1}, r_l), \\
& \dots \\
D^i(u; r_1, \dots, r_i)(t) & \geq \int_{t_0}^t \frac{D^{i+1}(u; r_1, \dots, r_{i+1})(s)}{r_{i+1}(s)} ds \geq \\
& \geq D^l(u; r_1, \dots, r_l)(t) I_{l-i}(t, t_0, r_{i+1}, \dots, r_l), \\
& \text{for } i = 0, 1, \dots, l-1, t \geq 2t_0.
\end{aligned}$$

The last inequality implies (9).

If we put  $t/2^{n-l-1}$  in place of  $t$  in (9) and use the monotonicity of the function  $D^i(u; r_1, \dots, r_i)(t)$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
(12) \quad & D^l(u; r_1, \dots, r_l)(t) \geq D^l(u; r_1, \dots, r_l)(t/2^{n-l-1}) \geq \\
& \geq \frac{t^{l-i}}{(2^{n-l})^{l-i}} \frac{D^l(u; r_1, \dots, r_l)(t/2^{n-l-1})}{(l-i)! \bar{r}_{i+1}(t/2^{n-l-1}) \dots \bar{r}_l(t/2^{n-l-1})}.
\end{aligned}$$

Combining (12) with (8) for  $i = l$ , we get (10).

**Remark.** If we use  $(D_2)$ , the inequality (10) can be rewritten to the following form:

$$(10') \quad |D^i(u; r_1, \dots, r_i)(t)| \geq A \frac{|D^{n-1}(u; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t)|}{R_{n-1}^i(t)} t^{n-i-1},$$

for  $t \geq 2^{n-1}t_0, i = 0, 1, \dots, l$ .

Further, we assume that

$$(13) \quad \int \frac{dt}{r_i(t)} = \infty, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n-2$$

holds.

**Lemma 3.** Let (i)–(iv), (13) hold.

a) If

$$(14) \quad \int \frac{dt}{r_{n-1}(t)} = \infty,$$

then conditions (6) and (7) are satisfied for every nonoscillatory solution  $y(t) \in W$  of (r).

b) If for every  $T \geq t_0$

$$(15) \quad \int_T^\infty \frac{\int_T^t p(s) ds}{r_{n-1}(t)} dt = \infty,$$

then conditions (6) and (7) hold for every nonoscillatory solution  $y(t)$  of (r) with  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) \neq 0$ .

**Proof.** Let  $y(t)$  be a nonoscillatory solution of (r). Without loss of generality we suppose that  $y(t) > 0$  for every  $t \geq t_0$ , since the substitution  $y = -u$  transforms (r) into an equation of the same form subject to similar assumptions.

Next by (ii) there exists a  $t_1 \geq t_0$  such that  $y[h(t)] > 0$  for every  $t \geq t_1$ . Thus from (r), in view of (iv) we have

$$(16) \quad (D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t))' = -p(t)f(y(t), y[h(t)]) \leq 0, \quad t \geq t_1.$$

Moreover, since  $p(t)$  is not identically zero in any neighborhood  $O(\infty)$ , the same holds for  $(D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t))'$  and consequently either  $D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t) > 0$ , or  $D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t) < 0$  for all large  $(t)$ .

We shall prove that the last assumption cannot hold in both cases, provided that in case b) we have  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) \neq 0$ .

a) We assume that for some  $t_2 \geq t_1$  we have

$$D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t_2) = K < 0.$$

The inequality (16) yields

$$D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t) \leq D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t_2) = K < 0, \quad t \geq t_2,$$

and consequently

$$(D^{n-2}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-2})(t))' \leq \frac{r_{n-1}(t_2)K}{r_{n-1}(t)} = \frac{K_1}{r_{n-1}(t)}.$$

Integrating the last inequality from  $t_2$  to  $t$  ( $t_2 \leq t$ ), we obtain

$$D^{n-2}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-2})(t) \leq D^{n-2}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-2})(t_2) + K_1 \int_{t_2}^t \frac{ds}{r_{n-1}(s)}.$$

Then, in view of (14), we have

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} D^{n-2}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-2})(t) = -\infty,$$

which contradicts the positivity of  $y$ . This contradiction proves the case a).

To prove b) we remark that the assumption  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) > 0$  implies the existence of a constant  $L > 0$  and  $t_3 \geq t_2$  such that  $y(t) \geq L$ ,  $y[h(t)] \geq L$  for every  $t \geq t_3$ . Then by (iv) we have

$$f(y(t), y[h(t)]) \geq f(L, L) = M > 0 \quad \text{for } t \geq t_3.$$

This, by (r), leads to the inequality

$$(D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t))' \leq Mp(t) \quad \text{for } t \geq t_3.$$

Integrating the last inequality from  $T$  ( $T \geq t_3$ ) to  $t$ , we get

$$D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t) \leq -M \int_T^t p(s) ds, \quad t \geq T,$$

and consequently

$$(D^{n-2}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-2})(t))' \leq \frac{1}{r_{n-1}(t)} \int_T^t p(s) ds.$$

Integrating again from  $T$  to  $t$  ( $t \geq T$ ), with regard to (15) we have

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} D^{n-2}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-2})(t) = -\infty,$$

which contradicts the positivity of  $y$ .

The proof of Lemma 3\* is complete.

**Theorem 1.** Suppose that (i), (iii), (iv), (13) are satisfied and, in addition, suppose that

$$(v) \quad h \in C^1[\langle 0, \infty \rangle, R], \quad h(t) \leq t, \quad h'(t) \geq 0 \quad \text{for } t \geq 0, \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} h(t) = \infty,$$

$$(17) \quad \int \frac{dt}{f(t, t)} < \infty.$$

If

$$(18) \quad \int_T^\infty p(t) \int_T^{h(t)} \frac{s^{n-2} ds}{R_{n-1}(s)} dt = \infty,$$

for every  $T : \gamma(T) \geq t_0$ , then

$\alpha$ ) under the condition (14) the inequality (r) has the property  $A$ .

$\beta$ ) under the condition (15) the inequality (r) has the property  $A_0$ .

Proof. Let  $y$  be a nonoscillatory solution of (r) with  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) \neq 0$ . Without loss of generality we assume that  $y[h(t)] > 0$  for  $t \geq t_1 \geq t_0$ . From this, by (r) and (i), (iii) it follows that

$$(D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t))' \leq 0 \quad \text{for } t \geq t_1.$$

This last function is not identically zero in any neighborhood  $O(\infty)$ . Now, under the one of the conditions (14), (15) we have by Lemma 3

$$D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t) > 0 \quad \text{for } t \geq t_2 \geq t_1.$$

By Lemma 1 there exists a  $t_3 \geq t_2$  such that either

$$D^1(y; r_1)(t) > 0, \quad \text{or} \quad D^1(y; r_1)(t) < 0 \quad \text{for } t \geq t_3.$$

Further we shall use the analogous method as in the proof of Theorem 1 in [10].

**Case 1.** Let  $D^1(y; r_1)(t) > 0$  on  $\langle t_3, \infty \rangle$ . Let  $z$  be the function defined by the formula

$$(19) \quad z(t) = -D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t) \int_{t_3}^t \frac{[h(s)]^{n-2} h'(s) ds}{R_{n-1}[h(s)] f(y(s), y[h(s)])}, \quad t \geq t_3.$$

We obviously have

$$(20) \quad z(t) \leq 0 \quad \text{on } \langle t_3, \infty \rangle.$$

From (19), in view of (r) we get

$$\begin{aligned} z'(t) \geq & p(t) f(y(t), y[h(t)]) \int_{t_3}^t \frac{[h(s)]^{n-2} h'(s)}{R_{n-1}[h(s)] f(y(s), y[h(s)])} ds - \\ & - \frac{D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t) [h(t)]^{n-2} h'(t)}{R_{n-1}[h(t)] f(y(t), y[h(t)])}. \end{aligned}$$

Since the function  $f, y$  are nondecreasing and  $D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})$  is nonincreasing, we have

$$\begin{aligned} z'(t) \geq & p(t) \int_{t_3}^t \frac{[h(s)]^{n-2} h'(s)}{R_{n-1}[h(s)]} ds - \\ & - \frac{D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(h(t)) [h(t)]^{n-2} h'(t)}{R_{n-1}[h(t)] f(y[h(t)], y[h(t)])} \quad \text{for } t \geq t_3. \end{aligned}$$

Thus applying (10') for  $i = 1, u = y, h(t)$  in place of  $t$  and using  $r_1[h(t)] \leq \leq R_1[h(t)]$ , we obtain

$$z'(t) \geq p(t) \int_{t_3}^t \frac{[h(s)]^{n-2} h'(s)}{R_{n-1}[h(s)]} ds - \frac{1}{A} \frac{D^1(y; r_1)(h(t)) h'(t)}{R_1[h(t)] f(y[h(t)], y[h(t)])} \geq$$



$$\geq p(t) \int_{h(t_3)}^{h(t)} \frac{x^{n-2}}{R_{n-1}(x)} dx - \frac{1}{A} \frac{y'[h(t)] h'(t)}{f(y[h(t)], y[h(t)])} \quad \text{for } t \geq t_4 \geq t_3.$$

Integrating the last inequality from  $t_4$  to  $t$  ( $\geq t_4$ ) and taking into account (17) and (18), we obtain  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} z(t) = \infty$ , which contradicts (20).

**Case 2.** Let  $D^1(y; r_1)(t) < 0$  on  $\langle t_3, \infty \rangle$ . Let  $w$  be the function defined by the formula

$$(21) \quad w(t) = -D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t) \int_{t_3}^t \frac{[h(s)]^{n-2} h'(s) ds}{R_{n-1}[h(s)]}, \quad t \geq t_3.$$

We obviously have

$$(22) \quad w(t) \leq 0 \quad \text{on } \langle t_3, \infty \rangle.$$

From (21), in view of (r) and the monotonicity of  $D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})$ , we have

$$(23) \quad w'(t) = p(t) f(y(t), y[h(t)]) \int_{t_3}^t \frac{[h(s)]^{n-2} h'(s)}{R_{n-1}[h(s)]} ds - \frac{D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(h(t)) [h(t)]^{n-2} h'(t)}{R_{n-1}[h(t)]}.$$

Moreover, since  $y[h(t)] > 0$  for  $t \geq t_3$ , there exists a positive constant  $C$  such that

$$f(y(t), y[h(t)]) \geq C \quad \text{for } t \geq t_3.$$

From (23), by applying (8) with  $l = 0$ ,  $i = 1$ ,  $h(t)$  in place of  $t$  and using  $r_1[h(t)/2^{n-2}] \leq R_1[h(t)]$ , we get

$$w'(t) \geq Cp(t) \int_{h(t_3)}^{h(t)} \frac{x^{n-2} dx}{R_{n-1}(x)} + \frac{y'[h(t)/2^{n-2}] h'(t)}{a_1} \quad \text{for } t \geq t_4.$$

Integrating the last inequality from  $t_4$  to  $t$  ( $\geq t_4$ ), by (18) and the fact that the solution  $y$  is bounded, we obtain  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} w(t) = \infty$ , which contradicts (22).

We have just proved that for every nonoscillatory solution  $y$  of (r)  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) = 0$  and  $y(t) y'(t) < 0$  for all large  $t$ . If condition (14) is satisfied, then by Lemma 3 and Lemma 2  $n$  must be odd.

Moreover, as it is easy to see,  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) = 0$  implies that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{in } \alpha) \quad & |D^i(y; r_1, \dots, r_i)(t)| \downarrow 0 \quad \text{as } t \uparrow \infty \quad \text{for } i = 0, 1, \dots, n-1, \text{ and} \\ \text{in } \beta) \quad & |D^i(y; r_1, \dots, r_i)(t)| \downarrow 0 \quad \text{as } t \uparrow \infty \quad \text{for } i = 0, 1, \dots, n-2. \end{aligned}$$

**Remark.** If the functions  $r_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ ) are nondecreasing, then the condition (18) can be replaced by

$$\int_T^\infty p(t) \int_T^{h(t)} \frac{s^{n-2}}{r_1(s) \dots r_{n-1}(s)} ds = \infty.$$

**Theorem 2.** Let the conditions (i)–(iv) (13) be satisfied. Let

$$(24) \quad |f(g(t)u, g(t)v)| \geq G(g(t))|f(u, v)| \quad \text{for } u, v > 0,$$

where  $g \in C[(0, \infty), (0, K)]$ ,  $G \in C[(0, K), (0, \infty)]$  and

$$\int_0^K \frac{ds}{G(s)} < \infty.$$

If

$$(25) \quad \int_0^\infty p(t) \left| f \left( \pm \frac{t^{n-1}}{R_{n-1}(t)}, \pm \frac{[h(t)]^{n-1}}{R_{n-1}[h(t)]} \right) \right| dt = \infty,$$

then  $\alpha$ ) under the condition (14) the inequality (r) has the property A.

$\beta$ ) under the condition (15) the inequality (r) has the property  $A_0$ .

**Proof.** Let  $y(t)$  be a nonoscillatory solution of (r) with  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) \neq 0$ . We assume, without loss of generality that

$$(26) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) > 0.$$

Then, in view of (ii), we can choose  $t_1$  such that  $y[h(t)] > 0$  for every  $t \geq t_1$ . Similarly as in the proof of Theorem 1 we have  $D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t) > 0$  for  $t \geq t_2 \geq t_1$ . Then by using Lemma 2 for  $u = y$ , from (8) with  $i = l = 0$  and from (10') with  $i = 0 < l$ , we get

$$(27) \quad y(t/2^{n-1}) \geq a_0 t^{n-1} \frac{D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t)}{R_{n-1}(t)}, \quad t \geq 2^{n-1}t_0 = t_3$$

and

$$(28) \quad y(t) \geq At^{n-1} \frac{D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t)}{R_{n-1}(t)}, \quad t \geq t_3.$$

Integrating (r) from  $t (\geq t_1)$  to  $\infty$ , we obtain

$$(29) \quad \infty > D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t) \geq \Phi(t), \quad t \geq t_1,$$

where  $\Phi(t) = \int_t^\infty p(s) f(y(s), y[h(s)]) ds$ .

Then, with regard to the monotonicity of  $D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})$ , we have

$$(29') \quad D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(h(t)) \geq \Phi(t) \quad \text{for every } t \geq \bar{t}_1 = \gamma(t_1).$$

I. Let  $l \in \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$ . Then (28) and

$$(28') \quad y[h(t)] \geq A[h(t)]^{n-1} \frac{D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(h(t))}{R_{n-1}[h(t)]}, \quad t \geq t_4 = \gamma(t_3)$$

hold.

From (28) or (28'), in view of (29) or (29'), we get,

$$(30) \quad y(t) \geq A \frac{t^{n-1} \Phi(t)}{R_{n-1}(t)} \quad \text{for } t \geq T = \max \{t_1, t_4\},$$

or

$$(30') \quad y[h(t)] \geq A \frac{[h(t)]^{n-1} \Phi(t)}{R_{n-1}[h(t)]} \quad \text{for } t \geq T, \text{ respectively.}$$

In view of the monotonicity of the function  $f$ , (30), (30') and (24) we have

$$(31) \quad f(y(t), y[h(t)]) \geq f\left(A \frac{t^{n-1} \Phi(t)}{R_{n-1}(t)}, A \frac{[h(t)]^{n-1} \Phi(t)}{R_{n-1}[h(t)]}\right) \geq \\ \geq G(A\Phi(t)) f\left(\frac{t^{n-1}}{R_{n-1}(t)}, \frac{[h(t)]^{n-1}}{R_{n-1}[h(t)]}\right).$$

Multiplying both sides of (31) by  $p(t)/G(A\Phi(t))$  and then integrating from  $T$  to  $t$ , we obtain

$$\int_T^t p(s) f\left(\frac{s^{n-1}}{R_{n-1}(s)}, \frac{[h(s)]^{n-1}}{R_{n-1}[h(s)]}\right) ds \leq \int_T^t \frac{p(s)}{G(A\Phi(s))} f(y(s), y[h(s)]) ds = \\ = - \int_T^t \frac{\Phi'(s)}{G(A\Phi(s))} ds = \frac{1}{A} \frac{G(A\Phi(T))}{G(A\Phi(t))} \frac{du}{G(u)} \leq \frac{1}{A} \int_0^K \frac{du}{G(u)} < \infty,$$

which contradicts (25).

II. Let  $l = 0$ . Then (27) implies with regard to (26)

$$y(t) \geq \frac{y(t)}{y(t/2^{n-1})} y(t/2^{n-1}) \geq M_0 t^{n-1} \frac{D^{n-1}(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t)}{R_{n-1}(t)},$$

where  $M_0 = \inf_{t \geq t_0} \left\{ \frac{y(t)}{y(t/2^{n-1})} \right\} a_0$ .

Further, using the analogous method as in the case I, we get a contradiction with (25).

If (14) holds and  $l \geq 1$ , then in view of (3), (26) is fulfilled. In all other cases (i.e. either (14) holds and  $l = 0$ , or (15) holds and  $l \geq 0$ ) we have to assume that (26) is satisfied. But, as shown above, this leads to a contradiction with (25). Then  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) = 0$  for every nonoscillatory solution  $y(t) \in W$ . Hence it follows that in

$\alpha) |D^i(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t)| \downarrow 0$  as  $t \uparrow \infty$ ,  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ , and in

$\beta) |D^i(y; r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})(t)| \downarrow 0$  as  $t \uparrow \infty$ ,  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n-2$ .

The proof of Theorem 2 is complete.

Theorem 2 is extension of Theorem 1 in [5].

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